

Elementary/Middle School-Age Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 10th, 2007
Kilowatt Community Center – Granite Falls, MN 56241
10:30 am – Noon

Present: Megan Davis, Youth Advocate – Shelter House
Sally Belgum-Blad, 21st Century Grant Coordinator – PACT 4
Karen Appel, School Social Worker – GFW Elementary
Sarah Wennerberg – PACT 4
Kayla Hansen, School Social Worker - Canby
Kristin Loe, Program Supervisor – Western Mental Health
Tammie Knick, School Social Worker – GFW

1. Reviewed roles of committee chairperson, note-taker, and reporter. It was decided that the chairperson will send email reminders of upcoming meetings and past minutes to committee members on a monthly basis. The chairperson is also responsible for creating monthly meeting agendas. The committee note-taker/recorder will be a different volunteer every month, as will the reporter, whose role it is to report our committee updates to the Full Collaborative.
2. Megan agreed to co-chair our committee with Trisha Sheehan for the next three months. We decided to try a co-chair system rotating on a quarterly basis.
3. Focus of the year – School Connectedness
 - a. Definition – “School connection is the belief by students that adults in the school care about their learning and about them as individuals.”
 - b. We are using “School Connectedness – Improving Students’ Lives” published by John Hopkins University, as foundational material for committee review, discussion, brochure development and further planning. We talked about possibly targeting specific audiences, such as school administrators, classroom teachers and staff, parents, and community members/agencies, with relevant school connectedness information.
 - c. Thank you to Tammie for bringing copies of Dr. Blum’s helpful resource plus the *Wingspread Declaration on School Connections* to our meeting!
4. Social Marketing funds – Sally volunteered to visit with Janice about the possibility of SHARE supporting the creation and printing of brochures as well as a keynote address by Dr. Blum.
5. Kayla Hansen, recorder, summarized highlights of our meeting:
 - a. Identify planned outcomes of your committee:
 - i. To promote school connectedness
 - ii. Conference with Dr. Blum
 - iii. Make brochures about school connectedness
 - b. Timeline: Brochure – 3 months; Conference – end of school year.
 - c. Networking and other discussion points: We briefly talked out how popular culture affects connectedness – cell phone use in schools, etc.